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skilled Worker

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1. "The following description of the monthly budget and average day of an
average Polish worker and his family is based on observations in Krakow

2. "Citizen Wladyslaw Bogucki [Fictitious name] is an unskilled laborer, about
45, married, with three children: two girls, 14 and eight, and a boy, three.
They live at 14 Bromadska Street in Plashov, a suburb of Krakow. There is
no water system in this suburb, no gas, no sewers.

Monthly Budget

3. "The family live in one room with a kitchen. Their monthly expenses for rent,
light and heat are as follows:

Rent	15 Zloty
Light	about 16 Zloty
Heat	about 90 Zloty
Total	121 Zloty per month

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(In principle the rent is not as high as 15 zl per month, because the workers have to pay less than six grosze for one square meter, which means about 100/100 zl. /sic-probably 1.30 sloty./ for 30 sq meters. But the tenants are reluctant to pay such a rent and pay the landlord a little more voluntarily. /Sentence copied exactly from translation./). The coal allotment is only enough to heat the kitchen. The living room has a kolhoz loudspeaker installed by the Radiophonization Bureau for 360 zl. in the old currency (9.20 zl. in the present currency).

4. "Citizen Bogucki is working at NOWA HUTA because the wages there for unskilled workers are about the best to be had. He is a manual laborer, working on excavations, with the firm Zjednoczenie Budowy Nowej Huty (Union of Nowa Huta Construction). He earns about 800 zl per month, depending on the work he has done. His wife does not work.

Income

5. "The husband's monthly wages in Nov 53 amounted to 842.20 zl net, which broke down into:

An advance paid 21 Nov 53	350.-- zl
Adjustment paid 8 Dec 53	492.20 zl
<u>Total wages</u>	842.20 zl

In addition, he received 8 Dec 53 a family allowance for his wife and three children:

	198.-- zl
<u>Total November income</u>	1040.20 zl

Expenses

6. "He had to pay out 8 Dec 53 immediately upon receipt of wages:

Member's contribution for the Union (1% of wages)	9.-- zl
Member's contribution, Association of Soviet-Polish Friendship	2.--
Member's contribution, League of Soldiers' Friends	2.--
Member's contribution, Loan & Aid Association (not all workers belong to this association)	9.--
<u>Total compulsory dues</u>	25.60 zl

Other regular monthly expenses:

Rent, light, heat	121.-- zl
Deduction for Parents' Committee (elder daughter attends a professional school)	10.-- zl
Commutation to work	
Tramway	10.50 zl
Bus (monthly ticket on private bus running to Plashov)	30.-- zl

Basic monthly food expenses:

Milk, one liter per day	90.-- zl
Bread (rye), two kg per day at 3 zl./kg	180.--
Sugar, four kg at 15.70 zl./kg	62.80
Wheat flour, five kg at 8 zl/kg	40.--
Potatoes, 100 kgs	120.--
Fat, four kg at 40 zl/kg	68.--

Total basic monthly expenses 917.90 zl.

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7. "Out of a monthly income of 1040.20 zl, the family is now left with the sum of 122.30 zl to cover such necessary items as: soap, vegetables, coffee, meat, butter, etc., not to mention clothes. Citizen Bogucki must dress his three children, his wife and himself. A pair of woman's shoes of medium quality costs 600-800 zl; a coat of medium quality for a teen-age girl costs about 1000 zl; a pair of decent trousers costs about 600 zl; a new set of soles for work boots costs 68 zl; a pair of socks costs 24 zl. He must also buy school supplies for his younger daughter. The family must usually get on without meat, butter, sugar, fruits. Sweets for the children are out of the question.
8. "After so many years of low wages, how do people in Poland manage to get clothes? They do manage: they trade, they steal state and communal property. There are ways for the smart people. When a fort was demolished on the way to NOWA HUTA the foreman and workers sold half the bricks to peasants and shared the profits. Citizen Bogucki has not such opportunities because he is working on excavations.

Average Working Day

9. "Bogucki gets up at 5 A.M. washes and dresses. He eats bread and drinks black coffee. He goes out in a hurry to catch the crowded bus to Ghetto Heroes Square, a ride of about 15 minutes. His wife dashes out to queue for meat or some other scarce food. The older girl dashes out to queue for milk, before going to school.
10. "Commutation: At Ghetto Heroes Square, Bogucki changes for Tramway 9 or 11, running to the Rondo, a roundabout. There he changes for Tramway 5 and in 20 minutes arrives at Nowa Huta. This is his usual commutation route. He is due for work at 7 A.M. (first shift). The trams are so crowded that nobody who has not seen them can imagine how the passengers hang on to any part to get a ride. The private bus from Plaszow usually runs on time but is old and often out of order. The road into Ghetto Heroes Square is bad. Passengers call the Plaszow bus a 'samovar' because it often boils at full steam. The Municipal Transport Enterprise has not enough buses to serve all passengers; sometimes Bogucki must walk. The trams sometimes do not run, due to lack of current or a tram stalled on the tracks. The Tramway 5 route to Nowa Huta is often out of order. The trams may still be crowded in the evening around 7:00 P.M. if many workers have had meetings. The bus is most crowded about 4:00 P.M., with workers and with women carrying market baskets and meat containers.
11. "Labor Discipline: If Bogucki is late for work he encounters the famous Labor Discipline. There is no avoidance of this discipline, no matter how many reasonable excuses for latenesses. He must report to the Labor Discipline Desk. For a few latenesses, a reprimand; after that deduction of one day's pay or transfer to a lesser job etc. If infringements pile up, a tribunal and in the end the forced labor camp. It is better not to come in contact with this Discipline.
12. "Identification: Bogucki produces his worker's pass upon entering his work site. He joins his working team. The foreman allots him a sector. The excavation work begins.
13. "Wages, Hours, Norms: Sometimes due to bad organization a worker stands idle, looking for his bosses. His pay will be small. But the foreman usually cheats when writing out the man's 'working card'. The worker must earn at least 500 zl per month; otherwise he will leave and join another firm, and there is a shortage of labor. A worker can quit his job after 14 days' notice.

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Therefore, the foreman records work which the worker has not actually done. If his foreman follows the norm system precisely, the average worker doing excavation at Nowa Huta earns, at the most, 700 zl per month; he is more apt to earn about 400 zl. The problem of work norms has not yet been solved. There is a gap between rules and practice.

14. "The foreman occasionally inspects to see how many cubic meters of earth have been excavated and what tools the worker is using. The Labor Discipline Clerk also comes to inspect - on a fine day when the construction site is not muddy.
15. "There is lunch recess at 1:00 P.M. The construction workers eat in a canteen. They queue up for a bowl of soup and a plate of meat, cabbage and potatoes. If Bogucki has the money he may buy some beer at the buffet at the construction site before returning to work.
16. "If the excavation project is urgent, he will work overtime, until 7 or 8 P.M. Because there are so few workers overtime work is often applied. The workers usually take advantage of this: they 'go slow' during their regular hours and begin the real work at 4:00 P.M. Bogucki works with a team doing piece work, so he works hard to earn more.
17. "Normally he leaves at 3:30 P.M. to go home. If the trams and buses are running it will take him more than an hour to get back to Plaszew.
18. "Compulsory meetings: Practically every other day Bogucki is delayed after work by a compulsory meeting: for the League of Soldiers' Friends, the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society, a production meeting, etc. The typical work week for Bogucki may have the following schedule:

Monday:	Work-eight hours, short half-hour meeting about lagging production.
Tuesday:	Work-eight hours, League of Soldiers' Friends - two hour meeting.
Wednesday:	Work-eight hours plus two hours overtime. No meeting.
Thursday:	Work-eight hours. Meeting on the fulfillment of the yearly plan of the Associated Construction Industries of Nowa Huta, resulting in a pledge to exceed the November norms - 1½ hours.
Friday:	Work-eight hours. Production session - five hours.
Saturday:	Work six hours plus two hours overtime. Workers' meeting on price reduction, held by the P.O.P., Basic Party Organization - three hours.
19. "Meetings plague the Polish citizen. There are parents' meetings at school, kindergartens and nurseries; workers' meetings; production meetings; meetings of the League of Soldiers' Friends, the Polish Soviet Friendship Society, the Mutual Loan and Aid Association; Union meetings, social council meetings etc. Persons who interest themselves in social work may find themselves involved in three meetings a day. People don't take the obligatory meetings so seriously as they used to.
20. "Drinking: There is only one small advantage to these workers' meetings. When the men get together to drink after payday, which is their habit, their wives may think they are delayed at another meeting. Drinking has spread widely. People try to drown their worries. People cannot afford to eat while they drink, so they get drunk quickly.
21. "Family problems: Bogucki gets home at last to his dinner, perhaps beet soup with potatoes, a piece of sausage, cabbage, potatoes and black coffee. His wife grumbles that she stood in line three hours to get meat, only to find

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that it was all sold out. She had to walk into Krakow to get bread, because the local stores in Płaszew were sold out in the afternoon. She bought her husband a pair of warm socks - 24 zł - because she saw them, and warm socks are hard to find. If it means not enough food money, she can resell them to a neighbour at a profit. Every night it is the same: money problems. If it were not for the meetings Bogucki might be able to work two shifts, but he would be more heavily taxed.

22. "Children's schooling: The elder daughter got out of school at 4:00 P.M. after a compulsory meeting of the Union of Polish Youth (ZMP). She gets a scholarship of 120 zł monthly and is doing well. But none of this money can be saved: 10.50 zł goes for her tram tickets, 30 zł for bus tickets and the rest for living expenses. School attendance is compulsory, and parents are liable to fines if their children do not show up. If a child has only one pair of shoes and has to stay home while they are being repaired, that is no real excuse."

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